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Subject: The Morning Headlines from InsideEPA.com -- March 15, 2019



REDEFINING EPA: Overhauling an agency and its mission -- Complete coverage

March 15, 2019

The Weekly Focus

Wheeler's Promise Of EPA 'Certainty' Agenda Draws Skepticism, Derision

EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler's promise that the agency's agenda will bring regulatory "certainty" is drawing a mix of skepticism and derision from observers including industry and state officials who say it either exaggerates the benefit of some actions or ignores controversial -- and legally uncertain -- rollbacks that risk creating more uncertainty.

Latest News

As EPA, DOD Battle, New Jersey Adopts Strict Groundwater PFAS Level

New Jersey regulators have set strict health-based groundwater cleanup standards for two common per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), adopting interim levels that are forty times more stringent than those being pushed by the Defense Department (DOD) in an ongoing fight with EPA over federal cleanup levels.

EPA Takes Initial Steps On PFAS Contamination Before Superfund Listing

EPA has begun to sample for potential contamination of two per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at Superfund sites even before it lists the chemicals as "hazardous substances," suggesting it could move quickly to require cleanup at sites where the agency had previously committed not to and where prior mandates are addressed.

EPA Approval Of Small Refiner RFS Waivers Signals Unchanged Approach

Biofuels groups are criticizing EPA's March 14 approval of five more waivers to refiners from having to meet renewable fuel standard (RFS) biofuel blending obligations, warning the decision signals the agency will not change its approach that has already resulted in dozens of waivers that the groups fear weaken demand for ethanol.

Judge Allows Environmentalists' Landmark Climate Permit Suit To Proceed

A federal judge is allowing environmentalists to proceed with potentially precedent-setting litigation alleging oil giant ExxonMobil violated federal water and waste law provisions because one of its terminals is not doing enough to prevent pollution releases caused by climate change impacts like rising sea levels and frequent severe storms.

EAB Backs EPA Power To Make Existing CWA NPDES Permits More Lenient

EPA's Environmental Appeals Board (EAB) has upheld a 2017 Clean Water Act (CWA) permit that loosened discharge limits on nutrients for a New Mexico wastewater treatment plant, rejecting claims that it violates the law's anti-backsliding provisions and bolstering the agency's freedom to make existing CWA permits more lenient.

Daily Feed

EPA's FOIA policy draws district court challenge, House attacks

The Center for Biological Diversity is trying to force release of EPA's internal policies for records requests, while lawmakers are stepping up their criticism of the administration's FOIA practices.

Fertilizer industry seeks to block EPA's collection of 'citizen science' data

EPA data gathered through a 'citizen science' information collection request will be low-quality and unsuited to regulatory decision-making, the Fertilizer Institute says.

Ewire: Hill Republicans mobilize against Green New Deal

In today's Ewire: The Senate is poised to hold a vote on the sweeping climate resolution the week of March 25, while House Republicans are urging that chamber to hold hearings on the measure.

Senators pressure Chamber to back climate resolution

Two dozen Democratic senators are urging the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to support a broad resolution urging congressional action to address man-made climate change.

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